

- (c) A Committee of Secretaries has been constituted under Cabinet Secretary to address inter-ministerial and Centre-State issues such as land acquisition, utility shifting, environment approvals, clearance of Road Over Bridges (ROBs).
- (d) The procedure of issue of Land Acquisition notifications has now been simplified.
- (e) To expedite the construction of ROBs, an officer of the Railways has been posted to NHAI to coordinate with Ministry of Railways. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed with M/s. IRCON for construction of some of the ROBs.
- (f) Action has been taken against non-performing contractors and they are not allowed to bid for future projects unless they improve the performance in existing contracts.
- (g) Steps have been taken to improve cash flow problems of contractors by granting interest bearing discretionary advance at the request of contractor, release of retention money against bank guarantee of equal amount, deferment of recovery of advances (on interest basis) and relaxation in minimum IPC amount.

Four/six laning of NHs under NHDP-III

†368. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work of four/six laning of National Highways Nos. 19V-77 and 19V-85, 28A, 30, 31, 57A, 77, 80, and 84 has been approved under Phase-III of NHDP;

(b) whether it is also a fact that no initial action has been taken so far at ground level regarding construction of these various sanctioned roads of around 890 kms. length; and

(c) if so, comprehensive details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) 10 National Highway stretches totalling to 890 km. have been identified under National

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Highways Development Project Phase-III in the State of Bihar including NH-19, 77, 85, 28A, 30, 31, 57A, 84 and 77.

(b) and (c) Two highway stretches totalling to 113 km. have been included in National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-IIIA. The bid document for Patna-Muzaffarpur section of NH-19 and 77 is under finalization. For the other stretch on NH-30 (Patna-Bakhtarpur) a consultant is being appointed for updating the Detailed Project Report (DPR).

The DPR for remaining projects are under finalization under NHDP Phase-IIIB.

Widening of NH 5

369. Ms. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the residents of Baripada district of Orissa have requested for widening of NH 5 as the volume of traffic on this Highway has increased by 65 per cent in the last five years;

(b) whether a memorandum in the matter has also been submitted to the NHAI; and

(c) if so, the Action Plan of Government to widen this stretch of the highway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) A reference was made by Shri Bhagirathi Majhi, Hon'ble Member of Parliament to widen the Balasore-Jharpokharia section of National Highway 5 to four-lane.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) National Highway 5 passing through Baripada District in Orissa is a two-lane road at present. Present traffic is in the range of 11000 to 11850 Passenger Car Unit (PCU). This will get reduced once Golden Quadrilateral along National Highway 60 is commissioned. Therefore, on